DR. S. JOHN : The Dispensary recently opened at Andoorkonam will serve the needs of all the neighbouring pakuthies including the coastal villages of Puthenthope, Kaniyapuram, Kadinamkulam, etc. The petitioners have been informed accordingly.

Treatment of Lepers.

96. ***MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN**: (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reason why the out-patient treatment of lepers in the Chirayinkil District Hospital was stopped ?

DR S. JOHN : Out-patient treatment of lepers in the Chirayinkil Hospital had to be stopped temporarily as qualified medical men were not available to fill up the vacancies of those who have gone on war service. Arrangements have, however, been made to recommence the work.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know why the specialist was allowed to leave service before the substitute was appointed in his place ?

DR. S. JOHN: Due to the exigencies of service. He joined the I. A. M. C.

Bi-weekly Dispensary in Poonjar.

98. * **MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI** (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when was the bi-weekly dispensary started in Poonjar ;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any requisition from the local public to convert the present dispensary into a regular daily dispensary ; and

(*c*) whether there is any arrangement at present to attend the patients even on the fixed dates when the officer happens to be in sole charge of the Lalam Hospital ?

DR. S. JOHN : (*a*) In Vrischigom 1098.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) When the Medical Officer in charge of the Government Hospital, Lalam is absent from station for a day or two the assistant (who is attending the Poonjar Bi-weekly Dispensary also) will be in charge of the Lalam Hospital. If that day happens to be a working day for the Bi-weekly Dispensary, then the compounder alone will attend the Dispensary for that day to deal with old prescriptions.

MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI : May I know whether any steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

DR. S. JOHN : Steps will be taken as soon as doctors become available.

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